

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 have been amended and 12-19 have been added to the present amendment. No new matter has been added. For instance, claims 1-6 and 8-10 have been amended to correspond with US patent practice. Original claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to correspond with a car airbag. Also, new claims 12-19 correspond to claims 2-9, but depend on claim 10 (claims 12-18) and claim 18 (claim 19). Thus, no new matter has been introduced.

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection are respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priorities under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority documents.

Abstract

Applicants submit a new abstract that corresponds to claim 1.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action that the drawings filed on August 7, 2006 are acceptable.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 7, 2006, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form filed therewith.

However, the Examiner has not provided Applicant with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 or PTO-SB08 form filed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 5, 2005 and October 10, 2008. Also, Applicants filed the Information Disclosure Statement on March 20, 2009. Therefore, initialed copies thereof are respectfully requested from the Examiner in the next Office Action.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Trondle et al. USP 6,994,125 in view of Moriwaki et al. USP 5,989,660. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully note the present application is a 371 of PCT/KR03/02370 having a domestic priority date of November 6, 2003. However, it is respectfully noted that Trondle has a US filing date of February 23, 2004 and an issue date of February 7, 2006 both of which are later than the effective filing date of present application (November 6, 2003). Accordingly, Trondle is not a valid reference. Also, although Trondle is a continuation of PCT/EP02/08764, filed on August 6, 2002, Trondle is not entitled to a 102(e) date of August 6, 2002 because PCT/EP02/08764 was not published in the English language. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted this rejection is moot.

Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not made obvious over the applied art for at least the following reasons:

The Present Invention and its Advantages

The present invention includes a combination of elements and is directed to an inflatable two-layer fabric comprising: two separated fabric layers, woven at the same time using a weaving machine; and an attachment area having a weaving pattern attaching said two fabric layers such that an air leakage per unit length (measured at 2.5 k Pa) of the attachment area is less than 0.8 L/min/cm (claim 1). Also, the inflatable two-layer fabric further comprises a separator area including said two separated fabric layers; and an attachment point attaching said two separated fabric layers, wherein a left separator area and a right separator area of said

separator area, located at left and right sides of said attachment point respectively, are mirror images of each other, and said attachment area includes a plain weave which is formed by repeated weaving of the left separator area and the right separator area (claim 2).

Claim 10 is directed to a car airbag comprising an inflatable two-layer fabric, which fabric has the same features as claim 1.

By way of the claimed features, an air leakage at an attachment area can be minimized when inflated. Also, since all fabric layers are formed of a plain weave, airbags can be prepared in a variety of forms utilizing jacquard. Further, the preparing method does not require a sewing process so that manufacturing cost can be lowered significantly. Furthermore, the prepared airbags reveal good weaving properties and smoothness. For instance, see page 3 of the present specification.

The Trondle reference relates to a method of weaving fabrics configured multi-ply in at least some portions, especially airbags woven in one piece including an upper ply and a lower ply interwoven into a single ply in a selvage portion. To prevent serious wrinkles, Trondle teaches a combination of other weaves with plain weaves woven in at least two ply portions because the prior art utilizing the same plain weave for inflatable layers provides a seriously wrinkled product. See column 2 lines 26-49 and Figs. 1 and 2 of Trondle. However, the claimed invention is patentably distinct from Trondle for the following reasons.

First, Trondle fails to disclose or teach the claimed features that an attachment area has a weaving pattern and an air leakage per unit length (measured at 2.5 kPa) of the attachment area is less than 0.8 L/min/cm. Trondle remains silent on this point.

Second, Trondle fails to disclose or suggest the claimed features that a separator area includes two separate fabric layers, and a left separator area and a right separator located at left and right sides of an attachment area, respectively are mirror images of each other. Trondle remains silent about this because Trondle rather focuses on having 2/4 ply portions formed with different weaves to prevent wrinkles. See column 2 lines 26-49 and Figs. 1 and 2 of Trondle.

Third, Trondle fails to disclose or suggest the claimed feature that the left and right separator areas are formed by a plain weave. Instead, Trondle utilizes a combination weave

other than a plain weave. Unlike the Examiner's indication, the Trondle reference has no disclosure that "the relevant layers have different weaves but plain weave is preferred".

As discussed above, the claimed invention is distinguishable from the Trondle reference.

The deficiencies of Trondle cannot be remedied by Moriwaki because Moriwaki still fails to disclose or suggest the claimed features. Therefore, a combination of the applied art cannot arrive at the claimed invention and resultantly, the claimed limitations such as air leakage per unit length, stiffness value and breaking modulus cannot be obtained.

As explained above, the claimed invention is not rendered obvious over the applied art individually or in combination.

As the MPEP directs, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. See MPEP § 2143.03. In view of the fact that the cited references fail to teach or fairly suggest the claimed features, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be said to exist.

Since independent claims 1 and 10 of the present application are believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection, the dependent claims therefrom are also believed to address the same prior art rejection. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

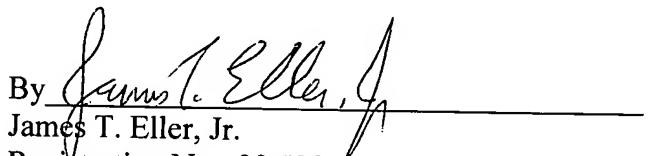
In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James T. Eller, Jr., Reg. No. 39,538 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
James T. Eller, Jr.
Registration No.: 39,538
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant